

A RESOLUTION to commend Timothy Hamilton on his exemplary career as an educator and to honor his many exceptional accomplishments.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should honor those fine teachers who have dedicated themselves wholeheartedly to the welfare of their students and who have given unreservedly of themselves, their talents and their resources to promote the worthy goals of quality education; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of an inspiring dedication to his students and a fresh and effective style of teaching, Timothy Hamilton has deservedly been the recipient of numerous awards and is well-deserving of the commendation of this General Assembly for his achievements in elementary education; and

WHEREAS, a second grade teacher at Dodson Elementary School, Timothy Hamilton has found a way to integrate children's literature in every subject he teaches, thereby making challenging concepts easier and developing an appreciation for reading that students will carry with them for years to come; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hamilton considers himself a whole language teacher, believing that reading and writing are something that should come naturally, and he integrates this concept into every aspect of his profession, even his mathematics curriculum; and

WHEREAS, his classroom contains a wide variety of children's books from which he draws his most creative and innovative lessons; lessons that have been praised by a large number of students, parents, and fellow teachers alike; and

WHEREAS, inspired by his second grade teacher, Eunice Bailey, Mr. Hamilton received his teaching degree from Belmont College and embarked on a career with the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools soon after his 1984 graduation; and

WHEREAS, in the second year of his career, Mr. Hamilton began to change the way he taught; he looked for a better way for students to apply the skills he was trying to teach; and

WHEREAS, of his unique teaching methods, Mr. Hamilton says, "I just immerse my students in literature, and they get caught up in my excitement" and "I try to make each day special for each child. I want them to feel like they can't wait to get back tomorrow and learn some more"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hamilton's teaching is captured on two 30 minute videodiscs used in classes at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College, and he has been the recipient of several distinguished awards in education including: 1991 Dodson Teacher of the Year, Metro Elementary Teacher of the Year, first runner-up for the District Elementary Teacher of the Year Award, and the Excellence in Teaching Award from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a fine example for the entire education profession, Mr. Hamilton's unique style was captured in a 1994 feature article in Teacher Magazine: an appropriate accolade to an enthusiastic educator who truly pours his heart and soul into his work; and

WHEREAS, for his years of immeasurable benefit to his students and his lasting contributions to the young in our great state, it is certainly appropriate that this Body pause in its deliberations to convey our most sincere appreciation to Timothy Hamilton; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor Mr. Timothy Hamilton for his valuable contributions to elementary education in Tennessee and wish him much continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final resolving clause omitted from such copy.